lity of iodised salt marketed in remote areas of UP and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) The report suggests effective enforcement of ban on sale of non-iodised salt, regular testing of salt at the production level, proper arrangements for storage of iodised salt, movement of iodised salt in covered railway wagons and strengthening of public awareness efforts.

All these issues have already been duly covered in the National Iodine Dificiency Disorders Central Programme.

Report of National Development Council about population

2842. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the document presented at the 43rd National Development Council meeting has mentioned about the depressing demographic trends in India with latest census figures revealing only a marginal decline in the rate of population growth of 0.11 per cent in the last two decades;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified any short comings in its family planning programmes as commented by a Delhi based womes's group during a meet at RIO recently that the Indian Government have ignored to lay emphasis on women's health and literacy as prime requisites for a meaningful Family Planning Programme; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are intending to introduce a series of disincentive measures one to limit access to Central Government Health Scheme for those with 2 children or less and the other to deny employment opportunities to those who marry below the age of 18?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) The average annual exponential rate of growth of population has declined, for the first time after independence, to 2.14 per cent in the decade 1981—91 from 2.22 per cent in 1971—1981.

(b) Programmes have been designed recognising the linkage between female literacy, women's reproductive health and fertility.

(c) The entire question of incentives/disincentives is under the consideration of Government.

Setting up of a Cancer Hospital in PGI Chandigarh

2843. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a Cancer Treatment Centre in PGI at Chandigarh; if so, the details may be stated; if not, whether Government are aware that there is no hospital undertaking the treatment of cancer in the North-Western States of Haryana, Punjab Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan; and

(b) whether Government are also aware that overwhelming majority being poor, one cannot afford to take the patients either to Bombay or Delhi for treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVRA): (a) and (b) Facilities for treatment of cancer are already available in PGIMER, Chandigarh.